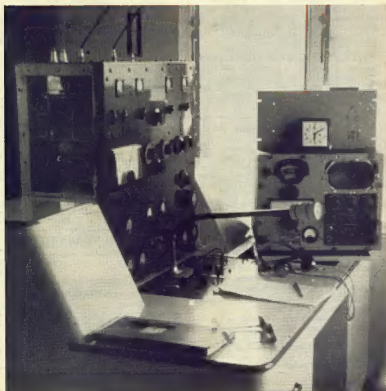


AUGUST, 1961



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VK3WI: Sundays, 1030 hours EST, simultane-
ously on 3575 and 7145 Kc., 51.016 and
146.25 Mc. Intrastate hook-ups taken on
7155 Kc. Individual frequency checks
of Amateur Stations given when VK3WI
is on the air.

VK4WI: Sundays, 0900 hours EST, simultane-
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state hook-ups taken on 7105 Kc.

VK3WI: Sundays, 0900 hours CAT, on 7145
Kc. Intrastate hook-ups taken on 7155
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7145 Kc. Intrastate hook-ups taken on
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taken on 7115 Kc.

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EDITORIAL

*

REMEMBRANCE DAY CONTEST

AUSTRALIANS don't have to be reminded that there was a World War II. In which a great number of the men of our fair land lost their lives in defence of their country.

But some of us forget, as the years go by, that the freedom we enjoy today was because of the sacrifice of those men, some of whom were Amateurs. Although we respect the memory of all who paid the supreme sacrifice, it is during August every year that we particularly pay tribute to those of our Australian Amateur ranks who "died that we may live". It is in memory of them that the Wireless Institute of Australia organises its Remembrance Day Contest.

Each year brings to this Contest a larger and larger number of Amateurs, keen to participate in support of their State total and eager to accrue as many points as possible in the hope of being top scorer.

This popularity for the Remembrance Day Contest is well merited but do not let us be so carried away with the operating zeal that we forget why we have this Contest and are privileged to participate in it. Let us all—at least in the opening few minutes—have the courtesy of maintaining the two minutes silence after the conclusion of the opening speech, which, each year, has been spoken for us by notable members of the community in each State.

This year we are privileged to have our Contest opened by the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency, Lieut.-General Sir Eric Woodward, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., and the Wireless Institute asks all Amateurs to listen for the fifteen minutes preceding the opening of the Contest at 1800 hours E.A.S.T. on 12th August so that the words of Sir Eric Woodward will be heard and the two minutes silence observed.

In past years some Amateurs have commenced operation prematurely due, no doubt, to the fact that their watches and clocks were ahead of true time. This year we ask all those who read these words to check the time accurately so that the W.I.A. broadcasts in each State broadcasting the opening address of the Governor of N.S.W. will not have their transmissions spoiled.

This is a worthy Contest. If you haven't been in it before make sure of participating this year. If you haven't the time to operate for long—and many are in this position—then at least come on long enough to make those minimum contacts in order to submit a log.

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,

At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE

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"SEE YOU, UP TWO"

C. G. HARVEY,* VK2AQU

TO an a.m. addict, such a request for QSY would generally achieve nothing. Whilst the heterodyne from adjacent channel stations would change in pitch, QRM would be reduced but little. A minimum QSL of 6 and probably 8 kc. would be necessary to provide a satisfactory channel.

Sidebanders, however, soon find how easy it is to slip out of a VOX roundtable for a few words on the side. Even in "kilowatt alley" a move of 3 kc. is generally sufficient to allow most W sidebanders to go their separate ways without intentional QRM.

The clue to success lies largely in the receiver, particularly in the slope factor of the i.f. passband.

Those of us who now frequent those parts of the Amateur spectrum where most stations have restricted their transmitter response to an upper limit of $3\frac{1}{2}$ kc., and rejected the carrier and one sideband, see little sense in allowing the receiver passband to exceed the same figure.

The bonus in improved signal-to-noise ratio, reduced QRM plus the improved channel availability, justify the small effort involved. In the debit side, most a.m. stations now sound poor unless they have ample audio in the lower 3 kc., and are free of f.m. C.w. of course is unaffected, once the technique of dropping interference off the edge of the passband is learned.

The graphs and comment which follow, summarise work with an old Hammarlund model RBG Super Pro. At the end of the experiment, VK2AQU was the happy owner of a more selective receiver than the current heart throb, the Drake 2A. As all the accompanying curves are drawn to the same scale, comparison with the Drake's response is easy. I wanted to equal or surpass 2.4 kc. 6 db. down, and 7 kc. wide 55 db. down. Fig. 6a shows that this succeeded, and the next few paragraphs will show that it was a relatively simple project.

The original passband of the Super Pro is shown in Fig. 1, and is recognised as being better than most. In fact the hardest part of this project was making up my mind to tear a perfectly good commercial filter to pieces!

PLOTTING A CURVE

To run curves like this, proceed as follows. Disable the local oscillator. Couple a stable sig. gen., such as the Bendix frequency meter, to the mixer grid through an attenuator, such as a 5K potentiometer, and if necessary, an isolating capacitor. The receiver S meter provides a handy means of observing the i.f. response, particularly where the initial calibration approximates 6 db. per S unit.

Now, with a.v.c. off and r.f.-i.f. gain about normal, swing the sig. gen. across the i.f. passband, adjusting the attenuator for S9 at the frequency which gives greatest gain and hence the highest S meter reading.

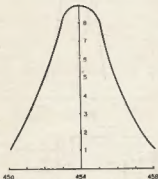


Fig. 1.

Now start with the sig. gen. above (or below) the passband, and record the frequencies which correspond to S meter readings of S1 to S9 progressively on both sides of the passband. Make sure you can repeat readings with reasonable accuracy before wasting time making plots!

After any adjustment in the i.f. stages likely to affect response, simply re-locate the frequency which gives maximum response, set the S meter to S9 with the sig. gen. attenuator, and re-run the curve. This series took $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of ball point pen!

CRYSTAL FILTER

The curve of Fig. 2a is typical of a simple crystal filter represented by the circuit of Fig. 2b. It was ideal in the pre-sideband era, particularly for c.w. reception. The curve (Fig. 2a) represents the second last selectivity position of the Super Pro. The last



Fig. 2a.

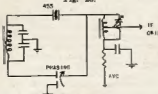


Fig. 2b.

position produces a curve which is just twice as sharp as this one! Coupled with an adjustable "notch" which can be used to "phase-out" heterodyne on c.w. QRM, it still finds favour, but not with sidebanders.

You can see that reception of upper sideband will be impeded and that although adjacent channel interference will be minimised, the response curve does nothing to help resolve intelligence from random signals in a 300 c.p.s. to 3 kc. spectrum.

Once the truth of this sinks in, it is not quite so hard to get to work with the side-cutters!

An enormous improvement in selectivity and slope factor results from adding an extra crystal, and using the simple lattice-type filter circuit shown in Fig. 3b.

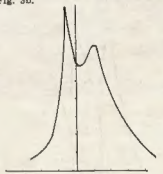


Fig. 3a.

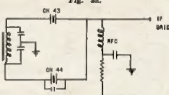


Fig. 3b.

SIMPLE LATTICE FILTER

Any xtal spacing can be used, but the commercial channel spacing of 1.8 kc. is ideal and suitable crystals are available for a song. Even importing them from U.K. at 4/6 each won't break the bank, who will supply the appropriate draft on request. No licence is required for such an import, and the address of several suppliers can be found in "Wireless World".

You can estimate the frequencies and channel numbers from the graphs. For those with 455 kc. i.f.s. the nearest channel is 48, which can be coupled with 45 or 47 as desired. If you are keen enough, a few rubs with carborundum will shift any i.f. crystal high by 1.8 kc., and you are in business without having to wait for the FT241A series. The i.f.s. would be aligned

* R.A.A.F., Glenbrook, N.S.W.

carefully to the mid-frequency between the crystals.

Our first response curve was a disappointment, looking nothing much like the nice theoretical curves in the handbooks. However, as this was an experimental project, trial and error methods soon showed that the loss of amplitude on the high frequency crystal peak was due to too much capacitance across the h.f. crystal. This was the result of including the original filter phasing capacitor with which we had hoped to alter the shape of the skirt, less drastically than Fig. 1 however!

Too much C across the I.F. crystal will also widen the skirt, but it also has the undesirable effect of increasing the dip in response between crystal peaks.

The excessive rise in response outside the crystal frequencies was thought to be due to the non resonant, and hence low Q, nature of the r.f. choke used as a load. A tuned load (Fig. 4b) was substituted, from the original filter, which had the grid tapped down the coil for better matching. This is not necessary, and results with the grid connected to the top of the load were substantially similar.



Fig. 3a.

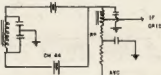


Fig. 3b.

A determined effort was made to reduce capacitance loading of the crystals. Unfortunately, this involved deletion of the old phasing capacitor and hence loss of variable selectivity. However, the sides of the passband steepened significantly and raised morale considerably.

A further brain wave suggested that the Q of the load might be significant in shaping the response in the centre of the curve, which should be nearly flat with not more than about 5 db. of sag.

Resistor R (a 100 ohm carbon) was added, as shown in Fig. 5b, to test the hunch.

Only 10 minutes work was needed after taking the first curve, to establish the resistance value which best filled the dip at 451 kc. There was no need to run a new curve for each change of value, it being sufficient to set the Bendix to 451 kc. and vary R until the S meter approached S9. After the nearest 20% tolerance value was found to achieve this, the i.f. was carefully aligned to the mid frequency, with the happy result shown in Fig. 5a.

This approach seemed preferable to wrecking a commercial i.f. to provide the right LC ratio using a capacitive centre tap which could still resonate the transformer.

FINAL SET-UP

The final passband is shown in Fig. 5a, and clearly justifies the small effort and expense involved. The band now seems half as crowded and even when conditions are wide open, adjacent channel s.b. QRM is of little significance. A move of 2 kc. away from a "round-table" has been found sufficient to allow 100% copy without arousing comment from the original group, at least from those with receivers in the modern classification.

The curves here do not show the inevitable side lobes, which are well below the -55 db. baseline, but which become significant where conditions

permit very strong signals, or if one lives close to another Amateur who uses the same band.

Theoretically these lobes are reduced by trimming the I.F. crystal with $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 pF., but after my experience with the effects of stray C, I decided to use the brute force method offered by notches from crystals paralleled across the filter 1.8 and 3.6 kc. on each side of the passband (Fig. 6b). These should take care of the strong locals, or those 50 db. over S9 stations that one hears about when the "pipeline" is open. No significant difference will be seen in the response curve above -50 db. if these crystals are omitted.

The books recommend two stages of lattice filters rather than one, but personally, after experience with this simple arrangement, I feel that this is not yet necessary in VK.

Incidentally, this filter does not reduce the available stage gain, and in fact care may have to be taken that the i.f. strip does not regenerate! If it does, apply the normal cures, bypassing to cathode rather than ground, and adding grid stoppers to the touchy stages.

Naturally, with such a passband, you won't want to be bothered with drift, so while the receiver is out of its case, some attention to stabilisation of the local and beat oscillator h.t. at the lowest possible voltage would be desirable. Increased bandwidth is often easy to obtain and well worth the trouble. My old Super Pro, with its converter, now has three dial divisions per kc. on 20 metres, and if one is so inclined, s.b. DX can be tuned-in with the big toe (Summer only).

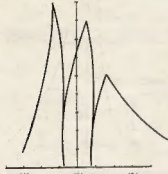


Fig. 4a.

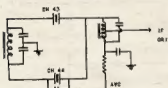


Fig. 4b.

The graph of Fig. 4a is intended to show the dual effects of improper alignment and frequency drift. You can see that the filter load is peaked 3 kc. off the desired frequency, and that the effect of too much stray C is still present.

The sag in the top of the response curve is, according to the book, best overcome by attention to the LC ratio of the secondary of the input transformer. But this was almost an impossibility with the Pro. In fact, at this stage I nearly abandoned the project to revert to the tried and trusted Q5-er arrangement. Fortunately, my inquisitiveness prevailed and a read through the appropriate sections of the A.R.R.L. and "CQ" Sideband Handbooks restored confidence by providing some clues as to possible courses of action.

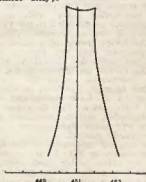


Fig. 5a.

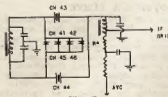


Fig. 5b.

Crystal filters only seem complicated and mysterious. A few experiments such as this series, soon cuts them down to size. A week-end's work on a project like this will do wonders for morale and quickly remove one cause of unnecessary frustration to yourself and others. Why not have a go? ●

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE S.W.R.?

BY "WUN GEE KEW"

It is, I suppose, a good thing that Amateurs tend to be perfectionists. It is because they are, that the best Amateur stations contain Ham-designed and built equipment which can compare with the best and most expensive professional equipment.

There are, however, many things in which this expertise can be taken too far, and one of them is to my mind in the constant striving after feeder line standing wave ratios as near unity as possible.

One well-known VK, for instance, spent many hours of hard work during which he sustained a bad fall from the top of his lattice tower, in an attempt to improve upon a standing wave ratio of 1.15!

As we shall see from the following mathematics (quite elementary ones, by the way), he might have saved himself the effort, as the gain he achieved by getting the s.w.r. down to unity from his already excellent figure was infinitesimal!

As most Hams know, the s.w.r. of a transmission line terminated by a pure resistance (which most antennae are at their resonant frequency) is calculated from the following formula:

$$\text{S.W.R.} = Z_r \div Z_o$$

or its reciprocal

$Z_o \div Z_r$
where Z_r is the load impedance of the aerial and Z_o the characteristic impedance of the feeder line.

If this ratio is anything else than unity, it means that all the energy sent down the line is not being absorbed by the antenna, and that some of it is being reflected back to the transmitter.

Having found out the s.w.r. on the feeder, it is easy to obtain the coefficient of reflection and from that the percentage of the total current that is being wastefully reflected back to the transmitter.

To obtain the coefficient of reflection of an antenna/feeder combination, we use the following formula:

$$\text{Coefficient of reflection (K)} = (\text{S.W.R.} - 1) \div (\text{S.W.R.} + 1)$$

and to turn this into a percentage of the current that is being reflected, we need only multiply K by 100.

Let's take a fairly common example—that of a 75 ohm antenna being fed with 52 ohm co-axial. The s.w.r. will be $75 \div 52$, or 1.44 approximately. Putting this figure into the second equation we obtain a K of 0.184. 18.4% of the current delivered to the antenna will be reflected unused by it.

At this point the purists say, "What did we tell you? Nearly 20% loss, and you are trying to tell us it doesn't matter!"

What they are forgetting is that nearly 20% of the current is being reflected, which is not at all the same thing as 20% of the power. The relationship $W = I^2 R$ tells us that power is proportional not to the current, but to the square of the current; and this puts a very different complexion on the matter.

In the case we have taken as an example, let's assume that 1 ampere of r.f. was being delivered to the 52 ohm line by the transmitter. 18.4% of it, or 0.184 ampere, is being reflected. By using the $W = I^2 R$ formula we find this represents $(0.184)^2 \times 52$, or 1.76 watts lost out of a total of 12×52 , or 52 watts actually "going up the spout". This is less than 3.5% of the power in the circuit.

In decibel notation, therefore, the loss with this arrangement is 10 log $52 \div 50.24$, or 0.15 db.

While I would like to see a bit better s.w.r. than 1.44, the fact remains that it results in an insignificant power loss. Taking it back into terms of percentage, no engineer would seriously suggest that a machine of 96.6% efficiency was exactly a failure!

Working through the same calculations for our VK friend and his s.w.r. of 1.15, we find that his antenna and feeder had a power transfer efficiency of 99.5%, from which it is immediately apparent that his praiseworthy attempt to reduce it to unity, while being a fine effort from a perfectionist point of view, was certainly not worth risking a broken neck for!

For ease of reference when you have found the s.w.r. on your feeder, the following table will give you the power loss in percentage and also in terms of dbs:

S.W.R.	Percentage Power Loss	Decibel Power Loss
1 : 1	0	0
1.25 : 1	1.2	0.02
1.5 : 1	4	0.18
1.75 : 1	7.5	0.3
2 : 1	11	0.5
2.5 : 1	18.5	0.9
3 : 1	25	1.3
4 : 1	36	1.9

From this it appears that if your s.w.r. is better than 2 : 1 you have little to worry about! Naturally, the actual losses will be a little higher than those listed, as ohmic losses additional to those purely due to loss by reflection must be taken into account; but with feeders of average quality it is unlikely that the figures realised will be inferior to those shown in the table by more than 5% or so.



Many Australian Amateurs have QSO'd Mickey YV5AIP, who is seen here at the operating desk with his equipment.

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Our Crystals cover all types and frequencies in common use and include overtone, plated and vacuum mounted. Holders include the following: DC11, FT243, HC-6U, CRA, BTG, Octal, HC-18U.

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Regrinds £1/10/-.

CRYSTALS FOR TAXI AND BUSH FIRE SETS ALSO AVAILABLE.

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TRANSISTOR RADIOS*

AN INTRODUCTORY SERIES—PART ONE

PRELIMINARY SURVEY

In order to set the scene for this series of articles, it will be useful to recall first of all, that the transistor radio now covers a wide range of types, from highly miniaturised portables, some with short wave bands, battery operated cordless mantle receivers for home use, car radio receivers, and soon, transistorised television sets.

VARIETIES OF DESIGN

One of the most obvious trends in the design of transistor radios has been towards the production of smaller and smaller receivers, thus increasing the difficulty of access to components. Fault finding becomes more difficult and improved servicing techniques must be employed.

Fortunately many receivers (e.g. cordless home receivers) are considerably larger and the technician may obtain experience on this type of receiver prior to dealing with the problems of miniaturisation. The larger receiver may be expected to provide an output of 1w. or so and calls for the use of a battery of greater capacity.

The quality of reproduction is improved by a larger loudspeaker (e.g. 8" x 5") and cabinet. Such receivers have all the advantages of the transistor portable and, due to the absence of mains leads, are cordless. They have a particular advantage, of course, for areas having no mains supply, because of the low battery consumption.

Some currently available models may have a socket which allows a car-radio aerial to be used instead of the internal ferrite aerial. In this way the performance of the receiver when used in the family car can be improved, thus increasing the general-purpose appeal of the set. A further development of the same idea has led to models which, when in normal use, appear to be a car-radio operating from the car battery; when withdrawn from the fittings this receiver becomes fully portable, and operates from its own internal battery.

THE TRANSISTOR

In the most general terms, it can be said that the radio receiver requires amplifying and detecting devices which will operate at various frequencies. The circuit designer nowadays thinks in terms of two completely different types of device for providing amplification. Some general considerations remain the same, or almost the same, whether he intends to use thermionic valves or transistors. But in many respects the two approaches are completely different, and it is instructive to notice how often, if one can consider the valves in one way, it may be necessary to adopt an opposite viewpoint for the transistor.

One combination of characteristics—that of the valve—are thus being exchanged for a different combination—that of the transistor. The approach

● The present article is the first of a series on transistor portable receivers and cordless radios and particular attention will be given to the problems of servicing these devices. The treatment will be as simple and straightforward as possible in order that maximum benefit may be derived by those who are required to maintain transistorised radio equipment.

required for the transistor will be described in future articles as will its advantages and the way in which it should be handled. The ultimate aim is that those new to transistor techniques shall feel equally at home with transistors or valves.

PRINTED WIRING

Future articles will be devoted entirely to the question of printed wiring with particular reference to transistor receivers. The introduction of printed wiring at roughly the same time as the transistor has led to the production of highly compact personal portables. As many technicians will have had neither the time nor the opportunity to find out for themselves the best ways of repairing faults in this kind of wiring, the aim will be to pass on some of the techniques of those who have worked extensively on printed panels.

One point in favour of printed wiring is that, as all the connections are made in one plane, it is moderately easy to represent these connections diagrammatically in the service manual or service sheet. The maximum use should be made of this information when it is available.

THE CIRCUIT DIAGRAM

Fault finding will be less difficult for technicians having a good general knowledge of basic transistor circuitry and in the articles to follow this will be emphasised.

FAULT FINDING

Fault-finding procedures will be described in later articles in the series.

The majority of set failures will result in complete break-down. These are the easiest to service because the fault can be traced to an open circuit or a short circuit. Intermittent faults present more difficulty, as do sets subject to low output or excessive distortion.

BATTERY REPLACEMENT

Of the transistor receivers brought in for service, the great majority will only need a battery replacement. This does not, strictly speaking, count as servicing, though checking the state of the batteries is an essential preliminary to starting any job which has been brought in for repair.

Whilst locally produced transistor receivers are designed specifically to use local standard type dry batteries and the dry battery manufacturers are producing the more common type used in imported receivers, some imported receivers will still not accommodate local batteries and the serviceman is confronted with a physical problem of endeavouring to accommodate the largest capacity battery as is practicable.

A rundown battery may be the cause of a variety of complaints of poor performance. To safeguard against this occurrence, the set should be allowed to operate for some time before checking the battery voltage. This simple precaution will soon weed out those cells which have been able to recover sufficiently to give a respectable reading when first switching on.

Although usually the rate of deterioration of each cell is consistent where individual dry cells are used and it is sensible to replace all cells.

Set design policies on types of dry battery, measurement and anticipated battery life relative to receiver performance will be discussed in Part Two.

(To be continued)



F.C.C. Announces Amended Results— VK3ARZ WINS THE ROSS HULL V.H.F. CONTEST

The F.C.C. advises that it has reviewed the results of the Ross Hull V.h.f. Contest announced in the June issue of "Amateur Radio" following a re-interpretation of the Rule dealing with the claiming of bonus points in Section B.

The revised results place VK3ARZ as winner of the Ross Hull Trophy in place of VK5GG, who, however, retains the award for the VK5 Division in Section B with 465 points.

A gremlin in the tabulation of the results caused VK5ZDI to be placed in Section A instead of Section B, where he would not gain an award.

The revised score shows that VK4ZBZ is the winner for Section B with 657 points.

F.C.C. regrets the need for revision and hopes no one will be embarrassed by the amendment.



VK-ZL CONTEST

PHONE: 30th SEPT. and 1st OCT.

C.W.: 7th OCT. and 8th OCT.

1000 hrs. GMT to 1000 hrs. GMT

*Reprinted from "Mullard Outlook" (Aust. edition), Vol. 4, No. 1, 1961.

TWO-WAY RADIO OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER TO BURNIE FIRE BRIGADE

The Burnie Fire Brigade was officially presented with a two-way radio installation by the President (Mr. Max Ives, VK7TMX) of the North Western Zone of the Tasmanian Division of the W.I.A. recently. The presentation took place at the Brigade's headquarters.

Mr. Harold Tattersall, Acting Chairman of the Brigade Board, introduced the speakers.

Cr. L. R. Rigney, who deputised for the Warden, spoke of the interest the Council had in the Brigade. He apologised for the absence of the Warden (Cr. W. T. Young).

Mr. Tattersall then introduced Mr. Ives, who outlined the composition and activities of the Wireless Institute of Australia. He said it consisted of Radio Amateurs and Associate members interested in radio.

The Amateurs built and equipped their own stations to experiment in the fields of radio and electronics.

"Many valuable discoveries have been made by Radio Amateurs from time to time, and they do valuable work in the provision of communications in times of emergency, such as bush fires and floods," he said.

In officially handing over the radio apparatus to the Brigade, Mr. Ives said he hoped it would give long and faithful service.



The official handing over recently of a two-way radio installation to the Burnie Fire Brigade. From left: Mr. Max Ives, VK7TMX (President of the North West Zone of the Tasmanian Division of the W.I.A., who handed the installation over), Mr. Reg Beach (Chief Officer of the Brigade), and Mr. H. Tattersall (Acting Chairman of the Burnie Fire Brigade Board).

(Photograph by courtesy of "The Advocate.")

REMEMBRANCE DAY CONTEST

12th and 13th AUGUST, 1961

1800 hours to 1750 hours E.A.S.T.



AUSTRALIA'S OWN BRAND

Top right:

AEGIS STEREO SIX-88 AMPLIFIER

Full 16 watts of power. Choice of three inputs: Stereo, Monaural, and Radio Tuner. Designed for 240 volts, 50 cycles mains. All front controls.

Bottom right:

AEGIS IMPROVED Mark 2 TUNER

Power supply can be drawn from existing Amplifier through voltage dropping adaptor supplied. Alternatively, an outboard power supply (Aegis type PS/2) can be fitted directly to tuner.



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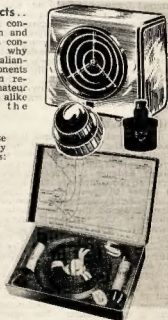
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AEGIS MANUFACTURING CO. PTY. LTD. 208 LIT. LONSDALE ST., MELBOURNE FB 3731

VK-ZL DX CONTEST, 1961

N.Z.A.R.T. and W.I.A., the National Amateur Associations in New Zealand and Australia, invite world-wide participation in this year's VK-ZL DX Contest.

Objects: For the world to contact VK and ZL stations and vice versa.

When, Phone—24 hours from 1000 G.M.T., Saturday, 30th September, to 1000 hours G.M.T., Sunday, 1st October.

C.w.: 24 hours from 1000 G.M.T., Saturday, 7th October, to 1000 hours G.M.T., Sunday, 8th October.

Duration: For all contestants in 24 hours.

RULES

1. There shall be three main sections to the Contest—

(a) Transmitting phone.

(b) Transmitting c.w.

(c) Receiving—phone and c.w.

2. The Contest is open to all licensed Amateur transmitting stations in any part of the world. No prior entry need be made. Mobile marine or other non land-based stations are not permitted to enter the Contest.

3. All Amateur frequency bands may be used, but no cross band operating is permitted.

4. C.w. will be used for the second week-end, and phone during the first week-end. Stations entering for both sections must submit separate logs.

5. Only one contact per band is permitted with any one station for contest purposes.

6. Only one licensed Amateur is permitted to operate any one station under the owner's call sign. Should two or more operate any particular station, each will be considered a competitor, and must submit a separate log under his own call sign.

7. Entrants must operate within the terms of their licences.

8. **Cyphers:** Before points can be claimed for a contact, serial numbers must be exchanged and acknowledged. The serial number of five or six figures will be made up of the RS (telemetry) or RST (c.w.) report plus three figures which may begin with any number between 001 and 100 for the first contact, and which will increase in value by one for each successive contact, e.g. if the number chosen for the first contact is 053, then the second must be 054, followed by 055, 056, etc. If any contestant reaches 999, he will start again from 001.

9. Scoring:

(a) **Overseas Stations:** One point will be scored for each contact on a specified band with any VK or ZL district. The final score will be derived by multiplying the total contacts on all bands

by the total number of VK and ZL districts worked on all bands. These are ZL1, 2, 3, 4, 5; VK1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0.

(b) **VK and ZL Stations:** Five points for each contact on a specific band and in addition, for each new country worked on that band, bonus points on the following scale will be added—

1st contact—50 points

2nd " 30 "

3rd " 20 "

4th " 10 "

5th " 20 "

For this purpose the A.R.R.L. countries list will be used with the exception that each call area in the U.S.A. will count as a scoring area.

10. Logs:

(a) **Overseas Stations—**

(A) Must show date, time in G.M.T., call sign contacted, band used, serial number sent, serial number received. **Underline** each new VK and ZL district when contacted and use **separate log for each band used.**

(b) Summary sheet to show: Call sign, name and address (please use BLOCK LETTERS), details of transmitter, etc., **total score** by showing total of districts worked on all bands and total contacts on all bands. (Districts multiplied by contacts equals total score.) Sign a declaration that all rules were observed.

(B) **VK and ZL Stations—**

(a) Must show date, time in G.M.T., call sign of station contacted, band used, serial number sent, serial number received, contact points, bonus points. Use a **separate log for each band.**

(b) Summary sheet to show call sign, name and address in BLOCK LETTERS and score for each band by adding contact and bonus points for that band and **total score** by adding scores together. Details of equipment used—transmitter, receiver, etc., and power.

11. Declaration to be attached to all logs: "I hereby certify that I have operated in accordance with the rules and spirit of the Contest."

12. The right is reserved to disqualify any entrant who, during the Contest, has not observed regulations or who has consistently departed from the accepted code of operating ethics.

13. The ruling of the Federal Contest Committee, W.I.A., will be final.

14. **Awards:** (a) **VK-ZL Stations:** The top scorer on each band and the top scorer in each VK and ZL district. Additional certificates may be awarded depending on the number of logs received

(b) **Overseas Stations:** Certificate to the top scorer in each scoring area. Additional certificates may be awarded depending on the number of logs received, e.g. to high scorers on different bands and place winners.

15. Entries must be postmarked not later than one month after the close of the Contest, and addressed to **W.I.A., Federal Contest Committee, G.P.O. Box 851J, Hobart, Tasmania.**

RECEIVING SECTION

1. The rules are the same as for the transmitting section but it is open to all members of any S.W.I. Society in the world. No transmitting station is permitted to enter this section

2. The Contest times and logging of stations on each band per week-end are as for the transmitting section.

3. To count for points, logs will take the same form as for the transmitting section but will omit the serial number received. Logs must show the call sign of the station heard (instead of worked), the number sent by it, and the call sign of the station being called. Scoring will be on the same basis as for transmitting stations. It is not sufficient to log a CQ.

4. VK receiving stations may log overseas stations and ZL stations, while ZL receiving stations may log overseas stations and VK stations.

5. Certificates will be awarded to the highest scorers on the same basis as for transmitting stations.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CONTEST

12th and 13th AUGUST, 1961

1800 hours to 1759 hours E.A.S.T.

FOURTH IAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR

21st and 22nd OCT. '61

All Radio Amateurs with a past or present association with the Boy Scout Movement are invited to take part in this event. Hams in over 80 countries will be co-operating with Scout Groups and endeavouring to work as many other stations as possible.

Last year was the first time that Victoria made an organised effort, and the results were very satisfactory. A total of 12 stations represented 45 Scout Groups, and 354 members of the Movement visited these stations. Well over 300 Group to Group contacts were made in all States of Australia and many overseas countries, by the Victorian stations. It is hoped that the interest shown will mean a greater participation this year.

The Victorian Branch of the Boy Scouts Association has again appointed VK3AGD, John Woodburn, of Dunkeld, as State Co-ordinator, and all Scout Groups are being circulated with all details and copy of log sheet to be used.

All interested Amateurs are asked to get in touch with the nearest Scout Group and offer their services.

Assistant Co-ordinators are to be appointed soon for the various Zones to help Amateurs who are willing to take part. So far VK3AUL (North Eastern Zone) and VK3AHL (Eastern Melbourne Suburban) have accepted appointment. It is hoped to have a full list in Sept. "A.H."

Here is a golden opportunity for Amateurs to introduce our hobby to a great number of young people who are of a very impressionable age.

WANTED!

ARTICLES

Can you write an article for "Amateur Radio"? How about one for Hints and Kinks?

yearly and should be available to members of the Institute to check calls and addresses for DX purposes.

The Federal Treasurer was made responsible during the year for all property belonging to the Federal Executive and in this regard awards, certificates, stationery, etc., were transferred to his premises. This eases the task of costing and stocktaking at regular intervals and is a more workable system than the previous Federal property was spread out between the homes of several members of the Executive. Access to the copy of minutes from Executive meetings in the hands of the Federal Council will indicate that the Federal Treasurer has kept excellent records and balance sheets of the Federal funds of the Institute. For those interested, an audited balance sheet is appended to this report.

The Federal Contest Committee completed another fine year's work in circularizing rules throughout Australia and overseas for respective contests held by the Wireless Institute of Australia. In particular the goodwill created overseas by the VK-ZL Contest is something always worth fostering and the liaison between the W.I.A. and the N.Z.A.R.T., who biennially are responsible for the running of the VK-ZL Contest, was of the highest order. Mr. L. R. Jensen, VK7LJ, Chairman of the Federal Contest Committee, did an excellent job, maintaining regular copies of the minutes of the Committee's meetings to the Federal Secretary. Mr. Jensen has now found it necessary to retire from the post due to pressure of work and this position has been taken over by Mr. C. Spitzel, VK7KZ. The Committee, until this change of office, was composed of VKs 1LJ, 1DW, 7KS, 7RY and 7JB. From experience, we are well aware of the time consuming work which goes into the checking of contest logs and my thanks are extended to this Committee for a year's work well done.

During the year, also, there has been marked increase in single sideband transmissions (s.s.b.) by Australian Amateurs. S.s.b. has been firmly established overseas for some years and has also been popular in VK amongst a relatively small group of earnest experimenters. Now as proven popularity as a means of communication, especially in times of crowded frequency allocations and interference from commercial transmitters, I forecast a great future for this mode of transmission in our country. The Amateur has consistently pushed ahead into new fields as the science has progressed and it is quite paramount to me that the pattern is set for yet another era of interesting and valuable progress.

Coupled with this interest in the current application of s.s.b. is frequency shift keying (f.s.k.). Although only very few are desiring to experiment with this form of transmission (probably due to lack of equipment) at the present time, the matter has come before the Executive during the year. Divisions were asked to comment on the pros and cons of f.s.k., but the results were not really conclusive. In order that every opportunity be allowed for those interested to experience without restriction, it was decided to agree with a test period on all Amateur bands during which time f.s.k. was to be freely practised. In this regard the Postmaster-General's Department has agreed to the introduction of f.s.k. on all licensed Amateur bands for a trial period of one year, after which the matter will be reviewed in the light of the experience gained.

There seemed to be some doubt in the minds of a few members of the Federal Council as to the desirability of this type of transmission in our already crowded bands, but since the frequency shift is limited to 600 cycles there appears no reason why great interference should be occasioned than experienced by a.m., n.b.f.m., s.s.b. transmissions and so on. In all cases, irrespective of the type of transmission, it is required that the signal be operated satisfactorily, and this being so, then f.s.k. only 600 cycles wide takes up less room than an a.m. phone station. Anyways, it will be interesting to follow developments in this field in the future months.

Official W.I.A. broadcasts continued transmissions throughout the year in each State of the Commonwealth, disseminating news to the country and city members, and it is obvious that this is a service widely proclaimed, particularly by those who are unable to attend the regular monthly meetings of the Divisions. However, I would like to comment on this stage that a number of complaints have been heard recently that the broadcasts are being cut off at times set down for transmission, thereby causing interference, not only to other W.I.A. transmissions, but also to other Amateurs. In this regard I would like to see the frequency

and time schedule, as agreed to by the Federal Council and contained in the Federal Policy Book, carried out in its entirety.

For the past year the Federal QSL Bureau continued to function in its usual efficient manner. Federal QSL Officer, Mr. Ray Jones, VK3RJ, spent long service leave abroad with his wife, the Bureau being carried on by Mr. Eric Trebblecock, HGNS-100, during Mr. Jones' absence.

43,524 cards were handled by the Bureau with 42,755 for the previous year, showing a small increase over the 1960 period and a substantial increase over the 1959 (41,852) cards. The costs of handling QSL cards rose rather sharply for the reasons, (a) cost of postage to enable quick delivery from the Federal Bureau to the Headquarters Division which were previously delivered to a central pick-up point for re-delivery with an attendant delay; (b) the first full year of increased postal rates was met; and (c) the increase in cards handled.

During his trip abroad, Mr. Jones visited the R.S.G.B. (Great Britain), the U.S.K.A. (Switzerland) and the R.E.F. (France) where he was able to study QSL Bureau methods used by those societies. Mr. Jones reports that the system used by the Federal Bureau in Australia compares more than favourably with systems used overseas. He was cordially greeted wherever he met Amateurs on his travels and the warmest of hospitality was extended to be and Mrs. Jones.

One matter on which I am happy to report is the activity by Divisional Councils during the year in respect to encouraging young people to take an interest in Amateur Radio as a hobby. Quite a number of exhibitions and field days were arranged at which we can always anticipate the presence of young interested people. The encouragement of interest in Amateur Radio is just as important as using the Amateur frequency allocations, because it is only by such encouragement that we shall

(Continued on Page 15)

WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA—FEDERAL EXECUTIVE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 28th FEBRUARY, 1961

Current Liabilities—		Current Assets—	
Creditors	£49 9 1	Commonwealth Savings	
Convention Fund	11 11 0	Bank	£268 9 10
Trust Fund	102 7 7	Debtors	4 10 0
I.T.U. Fund	684 10 8	Stock on hand	68 0 0
	£297 13 3		£1009 10 10
Accumulated Funds—		Fixed Assets	
Balance, 1/7/60	£254 9 10	Int cost less depreciation:	
Balance of Income		Future and fittings	£19 9 10
over Expenditure for		Type-writer (No. 1)	18 0 0
year ended 28/2/61	54 13 8	Type-writer (No. 2)	24 0 0
	599 9 8	Duplicator	145 0 0
		Tripod	30 15 0
		Equipment—VK3WIA	88 10 0
			£17 8 10
	£1306 10 8		£1306 10 8

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY, 1961

EXPENDITURE	£16 10 0	INCOME	£268 10 9
Depreciation		Per Capita Payments	
Federal Contest Committee Expenses	40 18 0	Profit on Sale of Log Sheets and	
QSL Bureau Expenses	21 0 0	Badges	£ 10 9 0
D.C.C.C. Expenses	33 0 0	Insurance Claim	133 0 0
Postage and Telephone	30 11 4	Bank Interest	23 8 10
Printing and Stationery	17 3 8		
Insurance	1 17 0		
Licence—VK3WIA	1 8 0		
Carriage and Storage	15 11 0		
Wreath (late J. Moyle)	2 10 0		
Certificate Blanks	30 10 3		
Letter to All Hems	129 18 9		
Administration Chart	4 0 0		
Excess of Income over Expenditure	54 13 8		
	£459 13 3		£459 13 3

STATEMENT SHOWING MOVEMENTS OF FUNDS FOR YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY, 1961

CONVENTION FUND—			
Balance in hand as at 28th February, 1961 (unchanged)			£11 11 10
TRUST FUND—			
Balance in hand as at 1st March, 1960			£5 5 0
Add Transferred from Main Fund	£79 8 3		
Sales of "Call Book Magazine"	26 11 4		
Balance in hand as at 28th February, 1961			£108 1 7
INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION FUND—			
Balance in hand as at 1st March, 1960			£321 15 0
Add Further Contributions from New South Wales	£17 12 7		
Further Contributions from South Aus	1 0 0		
Refund of Unspent Geneva Expenses	82 5 0		
	111 17 7		
	£532 12 7		
Less Lunch for Delegates to Easter 1960 Emergency Meeting of Federal Council	£8 10 0		
Expenses of Divisional Delegates to that Meeting	165 4 0		
Printing, etc., in connection with that Meeting and the Geneva Conference	27 7 11		
	199 1 11		
Balance in hand as at 28th February, 1961			£332 10 8

We have examined the books and vouchers of the Wireless Institute of Australia (Federal Executive) for the year ended 28th February, 1961. In our opinion the above Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Federal Executive as at 28th February, 1961, and that the attached Income and Expenditure Account is properly drawn up so as to show a true and fair view of the results for the year ended on that date. Stock on hand at 28th February, 1961, has been ascertained as the Certificate of the Treasurer, DAVID FELL & CO., Chartered Accountants, Melbourne, 10th May, 1961.

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In the comments about the we have quite a few readers to wonder whether we did gratifying to note that there at least who liked the change. for omitting a few pieces and I would also like to complaint that some news is a thing happens early in the get it until the beginning from the particular scribe appears in the following as good as we can do as the volunteer helpers who have at their disposal.

I have at last discovered where the v.h.f operators go to during the winter. Dare I mention it? 80 metres is the band to look on. I have had quite a few contacts there recently and it seems that all the stations contacted have been v.h.f. types.

Once again the DX on 6 metres seems to be very scarce although a couple of openings have been reported. June 4 saw a good opening to VK5 from VK4 at 1200 hrs with signals of good strength. Working also until 1300 hrs when it was rather middle 2XZL was contacted by 2ZHF and later 2XZL from 4NG and 2ZAZ were heard and worked by several of the Melbourne gang. The band was open for about five hours altogether. Another opening was made on Saturday July 10 when VK5 worked into VK5 and VK3 and VK3 were also able to contact. This short skip opening was unusual for this time of the year and just goes to show what can happen. David 2XZL was heard on 6 metres on 18 metres that afternoon.

The results of the last VKS Scramble were 5BK first in the No. 1 event, 8ZFM and 5MK first in the No. 2 event, and 8TN and 6BK in No. 3. With all the new chaps coming on 6 mx it would be good to see more entrants in these events as experience gained in operating practice is very useful for more serious contests such as the Ross Hull Contest.

More news from Adelaide comes from Col SRO who reports that during the week starting on 3rd July, signals from VK4 were heard during the mid-day period on most days. Sat. 6th July, produced contacts with VKs 2, 3, 6 and 7 from Adelaide.

heard when you are confined to a crystal. Roy has also been doing a good job encouraging the boys to have a go on the c.w. and will send some m.c.v. in 90 Mc when requested. Noel 52BG sat for the last exam, and we wish success to him and any others who may have had a try. Bob 52BY was successful at a previous try and now sports the call 6RG and has been heard on the high frequency bands with a nice signal in the Eastern States.

New wave is on the two metre net. New horizons seem about to be opened all over the place here. Jim ZEP at Hlabo has been making contact with a station in the area. His way contact will be made soon. 2IN at Long Jetty has been working into Sydney with a 2000 Hz signal. 2IN is now working into Sydney. On 14 June when Horrie 2IL was heard by ZEGM and ZEP. R4-54. Horrie was working Dick ZEP who was R3-S2 at ZEGM's QTH. A pity that the signal was not heard by the other stations might have made a contact; still better luck next time. It might be a good idea if some of the stations in the area could be contacted. This resulted in contacts being made an unusually large number of times when tried elsewhere. ZEGM at Unigarh has a 4X1500 final going out on 2000 Hz. This is a very good signal. The array, Geoff will be looking south each night at 2000 Hz for contacts in VK3 from SJW at 2000 Hz and also in the northern part of the band. It is very interesting in this

VKZ field events for June were a night hunt to hunt and a day long distance hunt. The night hunt was organised by Bob 20A who hid in the scrub near Hornsby Dick ZCZF was first in, followed by Jim 2PM, tailed by Dave 12AWZ. The day event was organised by Bob 12SZ who was hidden on Ridge Road near the Burrumbidgee River. The race of the day was tied up with a aggressive fox hunt. Scores were 20A first, 12WZ second, and Tim 12TM and 2PM tied for third.

Further east in VIC there is another pocket of activity. Tom 31W at Bendigo runs 35W. In a QSO6/90 with a 10 ft yagi at 48 ft H. The converter is an DRCC front end to a 581A mixer into a Geleoso rx. Tom runs a nightly ssked with Alyn 32GA with good results. They start at about a quarter to six each night and Tom looks for Melbourne stations at seven. Others active in the area, especially during Thursday evenings are 3FO and 32LJ at Malden with 32IK and 35V at Castlemaine also participating.

The first of the new series of Scrambles commenced in June with over 40 stations participating on 2 mx and 22 on 6 mx. The respective leaders are Ted 3AAD city, Gordon 3AGV country (on 2 mx), and Kevin 3ZKJ (on 6 mx).

by all and those who didn't come missed out on a lot of fun. Maurie SMS ran out the winner with Tom SAGG and Russ IZZZ second and third. They adjourned to the rooms for coffee and biscuits while a post-mortem was held.

Bryan T2H has been operating portable from Kelso near the mouth of the Tamar River and contacted Launceston at 6 x 9. He also heard T2H, S2H and T2V. S2H was in the area and contacted him later. Bryan heard a VK3 calling him around 7th June at 830 hrs. He was unable to hear the call and was unable to find out who the station concerned was. On 17th July, T2AO worked TFF portable at Westport and contacted T2H. T2H was in the area by T2L in Launceston, but no contact with Launceston yet. Col is getting tired of hearing T2H and T2V and is considering dropping them being able to contact them. He suggests that the night wait until the rx's are improved. The T2H and T2V are not very good. The distance about 60 miles over some of the mountainous terrain, but opinion on the mainland is that it should be quite easy with

Two metres in VK8 seems to have quite a few regular operators with an influx of others at times. The V.h.f. Group have made application to the P.M.G. Department for permission to operate a beacon on 144 Mc along the lines of the present 8 m.x. one. They will keep us informed of results with this project. 830 and 8WG still carry out checks between Basen-eden and Albany with quite a number of phone contacts and a few c.w. ones when signals are down.

225 MEGS AND ABOVE

There is much interest in 1200 Mc. in Sydney with Barry Z2AH being the only one with a complete station. Dick Z2CF and Dave Z2WZ have converters working and tx's nearing completion. Roy Z2HO and Barry Z2AG, also Eric Z2DP are building gear. A shortage of suitable tubes for the final stages is holding up progress on tx's. The SC39 makes a very nice job but they are scarce. Anyone having any of these tubes not intending to use them please bring out some of the U.K.

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(Continued from Page 17)

Page 19

S.W.L.

Maurice Cox, W1A-13555
Flat 1, 37 Boyd Crescent,
Glynnville, Heidelberg,
N.S.W., Victoria.

How are all my VK s.w.l. friends this month? Still hearing plenty of DX? If so, why not send me a letter or two on what you have heard. Not much mail this month, but it's enough to write this page up with all your doings, etc.

Awards: I have been informed that they have to be re-written, so back they come to me this time and I'll write them up. Then we will see what happens. So be a little more patient chaps.

The VK1 Group intends to run a newsletter. It will comprise DX heard over the past month. Those who are interested in contributing to this letter can, when I advise you, send me a copy of your past month's log sheet, giving date, time, f.e. A.S.T., band and naturally call signs (DX only). If you want a copy when it becomes available, send me your name and address, plus 6/- for one year's supply—this 6/- covers postage. But wait until I advise you all, once again in this column.

Don't forget the R.D. Contest this month. Let us have the biggest number yet of receiving section logs. The VK3 Group hope to go away again this year, somewhere, and have a jolly good time.

I have received a copy of the 1961 "World Radio 73" Handbook which is published by O. Lund Johansen, of Denmark, and my copy is from the Technical Book & Magazine Co. Pty. Ltd., Swanston St., Melbourne. I know it's six months old, but even so, it's a couple of years this book is still quite usable. I have perused same and to the s.w.b.e. find it ideal.

If it is, in my opinion, a necessity to the s.w.l.; some of the features are. Short wave conditions in 1961, reception of v.h.f. and v. transmitters, activity 1961, DX records, a number of the most suitable metre bands, short wave stations of the world, and co-operating DX clubs. Now what more does one want? It's a jolly fine book, priced at 10/-, and post and packing 1/6. So I would advise all you keen s.w.l. to procure one.

VK NEWSREEL

VKB: Well, things are certainly improving down here for sure, an average of 30 members have been present at the last three meetings, which in my book is very good indeed. On Friday night 30/6/61, 21 attended. Some correspondence was read, then band reports—the boys have been listening because quite a lot was reported. The election of officers will be held this month so come along.

We hope to start c.w. classes soon, we have the facilities wishing to learn but no one to teach us. Can some kind Amateur offer his services twice a month on the second and last Friday of each month from 7.30 until 11 p.m.

Rob Young and yours truly went to Bert Stebbing's 13060/VK3ZGDD QTH just recently to help put up the shack and the shack and more or less help tidy up his shack so we can get back on the air. Bert hasn't been too well of late and has to take things quiet, but the VK3 boys wish you back to a speedy recovery.

VK5: Seven of the local s.w.l. in Mt Gambler had started A.O.C.P. lessons under Al GZCH, but unfortunately he has to move to Adelaide and will be in the Mount area only until the end of July. They have been having lessons every Wednesday night for the last month or so at one of the s.w.l. QTHs, so they are kept busy. What a shame they are getting a start in A.O.C.P. lessons and it has to stop. I certainly hope he will be able to take the place.

That's all for the VK newsreel. Hope to hear from most of the other VK call areas next month.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thanks very much for your mail fellow s.w.l.s. Letters have been received from the following: BERS185/13043 Eric Trebilcock, 130111 Peter Bernheim, 130315 John McElroy, 13021 Peter Drew, 130328 Peter Field, VK3 Richard McKell, 13074 Moe Hilliard, 13136/VK4 Alfion Westcott.

First of all the "scores" to the end of May 1961, from—guess who—the s.w.l. of them all.

It's Eric. He has 5,948 cards received for 269 countries confirmed, 40 zones confirmed. Eric has heard 277 countries altogether. This year has heard 118 countries, 37 zones, has sent out 537 reports so far this year, and to the end of May this year collected 233 cards from 96 countries in 35 zones. He collected PJEME and VQBRB to give him Ncs. 368 and 369 respectively.

So far in June his rarest QSLs received were from MF4QAR, VSEAJ, VYVIR, VY4AY and ZS3KJ. As for a matter of interest, to the end of May, he has received 759 QSLs, cards from G land, 642 from DL, 323 W, 378 SM, 207 UA1, 266 OK, 120 123, 121 VE, 165 F, and 163 from 211. They are the leading 10 countries. He says you can see the value in keeping up to date records. I agree, Eric.

His DX on 80, 40 and 20 mhz is still producing log entries, up to date he has logged 243,888. That's a lot of stations, don't you think? He heard VKODA on 7 Mc. c.w. on 13/8/61 and on 13/8/61, 80 was very good, signs from ZLA on c.w. On one Sunday, from 1.30 to 11 p.m., he made 200 log entries, and the best heard during that time was LAZNG/P, Jan Mayen Island, who was on 14 Mc. c.w. Eric loves hearing cars and ships and planes mobile. Yes Eric, the XYL and I are most certainly convinced you are a real one-eyed "Magpie" supporter.



The antennae of Chas Abernethy (L2311) and son, Robert (VK3ZDA)

L2311, Chas Abernethy. From time to time Chas has told me about the take off from his QTH. He sent me a snap taken at 30 ft. from their tower, it shows due or magnetic north, south is just the same. The tower is a wonderful take-off. He's a very keen s.w.l. and builds his own gear. He's just completed a 10 inch 5 metre (good guess) are you short sighted? The circuit uses one side of a 12AU7. The metre is in the cathode circuit. Also nearing completion is a 3-tube 8 mhz converter. He has two 144 Mc. converters, which belong to his son, and what are his son's, belong to Chas—kiddier!

If you remember I wrote about Chas' experiments with double conversion recently. Now here's some more dope and I quote his own words: "Believe it or not, there was an outlet already on the Eddystones for same which I discovered after taking the set out of the cabinet, so one can be lucky. The improvement to date is a little better selectivity and noticeable gain. CHRGQ (Heterodyne beat signal and full copy) A reduction in noise level is evident; will let you know more as results are to hand. I think it was worth the effort, although the superb, which I have is of the old 1947 vintage, so a more modern type should give better results."

He hopes to sit at 24 hours in the R.D. Contest. (We will see, Chas, by your scores.)

Colin Hutchings is still having strife with his rx, the 416, being the trouble.

Gary Smythe is building a front-end for his 7-bay rx. Trevor and Colin are coming along in building the 4-bay converter and it should be completed by R.D. time. His next project is a axial locked converter. All the best in the R.D. to the VKs gang.

Peter Brew, L5021. This boy is keen. He commutes his conditions have been on about 14 Mc. lately and mostly poor. Usually it is like this, he says: 0200-0300 (GMT) FBXXC, FB22Z, 0500-0600 Europe, U.S.A. and Canada, 1000-1100 GMT. However a few days ago on 0330 he heard VQHS, FZ1AX, 5P2P, VSCQ, HWGCS, FB22Z, FBXXC, FBAAA. On 14/8/61 he heard a good QTH he heard several European call signs, but they were not at good strength, but they were on for five minutes. Then from 0630-0820 he heard Ws, VLA, KLI, KX8, KC4, KCB, FH4 at excellent strength with a good s.w. signal, 1000 s.a.h. From 1130-1230 same day, the Ws came in with a burst and the QRM was so bad that he only logged 10 of them.

He recently took an old condenser and viciously ripped out all the plates except 1 and connected it in parallel and it gave him about 160 degrees of bandspread on 80 mhz, however in the process 40 and 30 were cut out. Right off the dial, so he disconnects it for them. Peter's rx for 30 mhz is a National 10 portable. There's a 3-tube radio on it which is an f.f. stage which gives the signals a good boost. His ant. is a 180 ft. length of wire and its height varies from 7 to 30 ft. His h.f.o. is a 3-tube radio, not too good works. Peter received his Elizabeth Award, the first VK5 s.w.l. to do so. To date Peter has received 3,500 QSLs in 189 countries in two years. Very good Peter.

Peter Field, L5039. He has just come back from holidays in VK3 and VK3 where he visited Muriel GATA and had words with WLAB. He tried to locate L2168, but could not find his QTH. He took a Type 2 rx with him and threw a long wire up 30 ft. trees, heard Ws on 30 mhz and in 40 mhz VK4 and CEXK1 on phone. Peter has just put up a two ft. beam for 21 Mc. 30 ft. on an A frame, works like a bomb in 20 mhz VK4 and CEXK1 as well as 15. He heard a lot of DX on it.

Richard McKell sends a short note: he wants to know more about whip ant. as he has just procured a Type 18 MC. III. Transceiver. Bill SAQI is going to look into it for him. Dick wants to put it in the post, but is still undecided—we wish you luck, Dick.

My mate Moe Hilliard is still going strong, has lots of plans. He's the instigator of the newsletter, he's even picked up a stapling machine. He hopes to pick a lot of you guys will be interested in it. So don't forget to let me know if you would all be interested in the newsletter.

Alfred Westcott, L2136/VK4. He states "There is not a great lot to send you this time, as conditions have fallen away very steeply on 14 and 21 Mc. On the other hand, conditions are better on 30 mhz and on WLAB stations are breaking through with very good signs at their peak around 7.2 Mc."

For the next two months, Alfion will be away so we wish you luck. I guess him so he's going to miss listening on s.a.h. which he is chiefly interested in. He had a note from DA74A who is said to be "as near" as Melbourne, but DL7HA was never out of Berlin.

QSL CARDS RECEIVED

Seeing that only two s.w.l.s. sent in their DX heard, I won't include that, but in their place cards received L3065: KWAL, WHUG, WPCPM, WASKO, BERS19/13043, MP4QAL, 130111 Peter Bernheim, 130315 John McElroy, 13021 Peter Drew, 130328 Peter Field, VK3 Richard McKell, 13074 Moe Hilliard, 13136/VK4 Alfion Westcott, 130111 Peter Bernheim, 130315 John McElroy, 13021 Peter Drew, 130328 Peter Field, VK3 Richard McKell, 13074 Moe Hilliard, 13136/VK4 Alfion Westcott.

DX LADDER

Countries	Zna	S.a.b.	S.a.b.	Conf.	H.S.	Conf.	H.S.	Conf.	Cds.
E. Trebilcock	289	27	40						
A. Westcott	187	157		92	51	194			
M. Hilliard	99	125	25						
M. Cox	31	128	19	94	2	82			
Chas Abernethy	16	18							
T. Heywood	16	96							
P. Drew	16	158	13						
P. Field	13	118	9						
R. Thompson	13	118	13						
D. Allen	2	18	2						
L. Walker	2	14	2						

Well, there are quite a few alterations this month. How do you like the two new columns? Send in your scores and remember my love to the S. Lad, all the very best DX. 73, Maurice, 13055.

NOTES

FEDERAL

E.D. CONTEST, 1961

This year the Remembrance Day Contest will commence at 1800 hours E.A.S.T. on 12th August and conclude at 1700 hours E.A.S.T. on 13th August.

The Contest will be opened by a tape recorded address by the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir Eric Woodward, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O.

All Australian Amateurs are asked to particularly keep off the air for a period of fifteen minutes before 1800 hours E.A.S.T. on 12th August whilst the official V.I.A. stations are transmitting the Governor's opening address.

At the conclusion of His Excellency's opening address there will be two minutes silence in memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT

On the bands allocated to the Amateur Service there has always been a "Gentlemen's agreement" that portion of the frequency assignment would be set aside for c.w. operation and portability for phone operation. In this regard the lower end of each band has been assigned to for c.w. operation.

With the frequency minima approaching over the next few years, the conditions on the 3.5 and 7 Mc bands are improving at a great rate. In the past the first 50 kc. has always been set aside by "Gentlemen's agreement" for the use of c.w. operators, a fact which seems to have been forgotten during more recent times. The W.I.A. would like to draw the attention of Amateurs to the fact that it is imperative that some form of discretion be agreed to in respect of c.w. and phone operation, otherwise by international agreement interference can ensue.

50 kc. as agreed to in the past, has been a reasonable portion for c.w. This may have to be looked at again in view of the relatively low power transmissions and popular use. Let us realise that it is better to have a c.w./phone discretion than to have more QRM than operation, otherwise by international agreement and irrational c.w./phone Amateur transmissions.

Sunspot cycles DO change the operating habits of Amateur stations and in view of the conditions attracting operating in the 3.5 and 7 Mc bands it is all the more worthy that Amateurs should arrange their own operating habits. We suggest leaving the first 50 kc. to the c.w. gang. With phone using the remaining 50 kc. of the exclusive 7.5 to 7.1 Mc assignment. If any further share assignment is agreed to then phone can occupy this along with s.a.b.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S ADDRESS

The 1961 Convention of the Institution of Radio Engineers was opened by the Postmaster-General, the Honourable C. W. Davidson, O.B.E., at Perth. The Postmaster-General made reference to the Amateur Service in Australia, saying, "In addition, some 6,000 Amateurs make radio their hobby. Their enthusiasm is not only improving their knowledge of the radio art in their own time, but are promoting goodwill through their contacts with others. It is very important in various parts of the world. In addition, of course, to transmissions in times of emergency."

FEDERAL QSL BUREAU

Divisional QSL Managers please note the following changes in the A.R.R.L. QSL Bureaux:

KL1—Box 6326, Airport Annex Anchorage Alaska.
KP4—Joseph Gonzalez, KP4YT, Box 1061, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
W3-K2—North Jersey DX Assn., Box 303, Bradley Beach, N.J., U.S.A.

A reminder is also sent that s.w.l. cards for A.S.T. should be sent to Mr. Le Roy Waite, 20 Cannon St., Ballston Spa, N.Y., U.S.A.

The N.R.R.L. seeks publicity for the Scandinavian Activity Contest which is to be held

as follows: C.w. 1500 GMT, Sept. 16, to 1800 GMT, Sept. 17, and Phone 1500 GMT, Sept. 22, to 1800 GMT, Sept. 23. Full details may be had from this Bureau.

Enclosed with a bundle of back-dated QSLs from the Israel Amateur Radio Club is an apology for the delay in forwarding several untoward happenings contributed to the hold up.

Cards through the Federal Bureau during June totalled almost 5,000. This was the heaviest month since May 1958.

The most ambitious DX-pedition ever dreamed of is being organised by W6CUI and W4SP1. The former will be the main back home, and Gus the man doing the operating from overseas. He plans to get moving some time in January 1962. According to present intentions the trip will include such places as EA6, ZA, SV, VK, 4X3, EA6, CR5, EA9, VQ1, Tromelin, St. Marie, Quouron, Somers, Isle Europe, VQ3 VQ7, FL, MP4, 2K4, CR8, 8M1, AC4, AC3, ACS, CR10, etc., etc.—78 countries in all. Just what form of transport is to be used is not stated. (A flying carpet maybe.) S.b. and c.w. operation is proposed from every location on the list if the necessary permission can be obtained. Good luck, Gus, and it is hoped your fantastic plan achieves reality.

—Ray Jones, VK3RJ, Federal QSL Manager

FEDERAL AWARDS

Kuwait-Saudi Arabia Neutral Zone will be given new and separate listing in the Australian D.X.C.C. Countries List. This neutral zone is located between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and is territory over which sovereignty has not been established and from which Amateur Radio activities have recently been conducted. Add to list published in "A.R." in January.

—A. Kierke, VK3KB, Awards Manager

NEW SOUTH WALES

GENERAL MEETING

The June general meeting of the N.S.W. Division was held at the customary meeting place, Science House, Gloucester St., Sydney, with the President, Mr. Eric VK3JB, presiding. On this occasion the attendance was somewhat disappointing as only some 37 brave souls defied the elements.

However, those present heard a very good lecture on Transistors, and the lecturer for the evening, Eric Warren, of the Dept. of Civil Engineering, University of Sydney, of the types of transistors which are in daily use already, or which are being developed for future use. Eric traced the methods of construction of such types as PNP, NPN, drift transistors and Meier types, dealt with their electronic structure and further explained the typical operation of the various types.

Developments at present in hand are in a most interesting stage and it would appear that in the years to come that transistors will completely supersede valves in any application. The vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Norm Beard, 2ALJ, and passed by acclamation.

The Federal Council, Pierce Healey, 3APQ, made a lengthy report and also dealt with agenda items which will be dealt with at the Council's Federal Council meeting in Perth at Easter 1962, and for which any agenda items which members may have are urgently required for inclusion.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council of the Division is meeting bi-monthly at Headquarters, 14 Atchison Street, Cross Street, Sydney. At some meetings were present in addition to some visitors. A letter of resignation was tendered by Norm Beard, 2ALJ, who finds his work with the Division incompatible with his daily duties in another sphere. Council accepted his resignation with regret and placed on record the thanks of Council and members for his untiring work Norm has done on our behalf over many years.

SILENT KEY

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of:—

VK4EG—E. ("Ted") Gold.
VK4PN Russell F. Roberts.

The vacancy thus occurring on the Disposal Committee was filled by the election of Keith Jeffcoats, 2AB, to that office and further change is that Vol Molewsch, 2VO, was elected as Disposal Secretary.

By the time that this column appears in print the 1961 Call Book will be available and lists there are available. The committee consists of Harold Burfitt, 2AAB, Vol Molewsch, 2VO, and Ted Whiting, 2ACD.

The Southern Tablelands Zone Club of Goulburn has received its call sign, VK3ATX.

JUNIOR RADIO CLUBS

Following a proposal by Reg Black, a committee has met to discuss the formation of Junior Radio Clubs in schools, colleges and other youth organisations.

It has been felt from some time that there is a need for such a means of encouraging the study of radio theory, thus laying the foundation for a future career in the electronic field. Council has discussed the report with the two councillors who attended this initial meeting, 2AAAG and the SMP, and has accepted the scheme in principle.

Following further meetings of the committee, undoubtedly steps may be taken to implement the proposal.

TAPE SERVICE

Again a reminder to the country clubs and groups that there are several excellent lectures on tape which will allow of the lecturers we have here in Sydney to be heard in the W.I.A. We have several letters of thanks regarding these tapes during the past few months and can commend them to you.

The tapes available are as follows:—

T.V.I., by Horrie Oakes, VK3FA.
Master Oscillators, by Joe Reed, VK3JR.
Transistors, by Harold Burfitt, 2AAB.
V.H.F. Omni-Range, by Peter Griffin, of D.C.A.

Further tapes are being organised and all are readily available on application to the Education Officer, who will immediately arrange transit.

AUGUST LECTURE

The lecture arranged for the August general meeting will be given by Harry Edwards, of the University of N.S.W., and his subject will be H.F. and V.H.F. Antennae.

The following month (September) the lecture will be on "Transistors in Communication Receivers" and will be given by Bob Zuker, of Commonwealth Electronics Ltd.

General meetings are held at Science House, Gloucester St., Sydney, on the fourth Friday of the month, commencing at 8 p.m. and will be held again in an interesting and instructive evening.

SHORT WAVE LISTENERS' GROUP

Cheery greetings to s.w.l.'s in all States, this being the first opportunity I have had to subscribe to the Divisional Notes since the present committee was elected. Since the publication of activity in VKI has been one of the increase of late, many letters of inquiry having been received regarding our activities.

At the May meeting at headquarters, 14 Atchison Street, Cross Street, some members enjoyed an interesting talk by Ted Whiting, 2ACD, on S.w.l'ing, Antennae and Receivers. The next meeting was devoted to a short programme, to general business at which many matters concerning the Group were discussed. Many orders have been received for our manual on the A.S.T. receiver, date and enquiries will be welcomed. This is the first of a series of re-prints of manuals on Australian disposal equipment and will be sent to all s.w.l. members of s.w.l. plus postage to ALL W.I.A. members. Orders should be addressed to the Secretary, S.W. Group, at the above address. A batch of 500 s.w.l. already has been sent out and a second batch will be ready immediately. The contents of the 20 pages cover data on each stage of the receiver complete with circuit diagrams, complete alignment procedure. Next in the series will possibly be the SC832.

The July meeting was given over to a talk and demonstration by Vol 2VO on Modifications of Disposal Equipment which was only one of the many lectures arranged by your committee.



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Price: £2/5/8, Trade.

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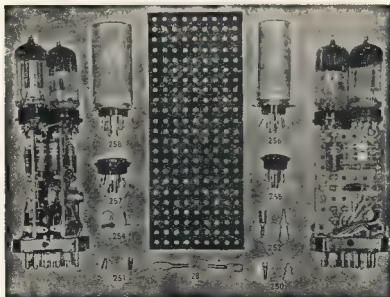
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MUNKER BRANCH

Big success news this month chaps, but first of all some news of the June meeting. These repeat were our distinguished visitor and lecturer for the evening, Maurice Myer, 2VN, and the other welcome visitors Jim ZKXT and Merril L. Warden and H. Jackson. Members' associates there were VKA 22NF, 2SP, 2KAE, 2CS, 2AYL, 2AJA, 2XT, 2ZJG, 2ZNV, 2AXE, 2ZIF, 2ZL, 2AL, 2ALB, 2ALY, 2FZ, 2ZCU, 2AYV and 2AKR, with Messrs. Sutherland, Blyth, Stobbs, Finlayson, Munn, Mullen, McLeishan, Marker, and Forrest.

As was from this list the roll-up was the best the Branch has had for some time and the reason, no doubt, was that Maurice was to give his lecture on Radio Aids to Navigation. He was always a pleasure to hear someone who is so thoroughly familiar with his subject as our lecturer and with the able assistance of Stewart 2AYV, the evening was an unqualified success. Stewart, I might mention was the man behind the slide projector and we saw everything from the first Australian airline radio installation to the proposed craft to be used on the Kangaroo route one day. We all knew now that AGACS (pronounced AJAXI) is something pretty complicated to do with navigation as well as being swell for cleaning the kitchen sink. Seriously though, you chaps reading this who did not come might think highly worthy of the 25% 2XQ responded on behalf of the Branch and he was supported by the acclamation of the members.

Did I say big success or did I say—well here it is. No less than three of our associates are well on the way to becoming full members following their success in the recent AGACS exam. They are Gordon Sutherland and Tony Mullen—Licensed licence qualifications, and Ian J. Sherwood. Forrest—full licence qualifications. Congratulations to you chaps and hopes that we'll soon hear you on the bands. Gordon is well under way I believe and has already procured a piece of equipment and has been in the shape of a channel. I know he has the crystals for his converter, so it seems that all that is needed now is a little bit of application and an application form before we hear his dulcet tones gracing the ether.

As for Tony, rumour has it that he does not intend to be limited to the local area. He is studying hard for the Morse. This probably is the reason why a poor featherless budgee has been seen sitting on the front fence of certain Toronto residences, whistling quaint sounds like an ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Morse character. Poor little bird.

And Ian, our youngest examiner, already has received his Class 2 and 3 licences. I can't describe because, he says, time will be short between now and the Leaving Certificate and he intends building his own rig then. I suppose must forgive 'Sherwood' for this. After all, he did get the quiz at seventeen.

Another resident of our district, or should I say part-time resident, who was notified of this limited ticket pass, has asked that his name remain anonymous so that he may have a lash at the Morse and pass, next time. Big secret. We know that he'll be almost a cert for the next exam.

And what about the QMs who have had their tickets for years. What are they doing? Well, there's no knowing that should not be doing what he did the other morning. This gentleman, who reckons he's in the city of Newcastle, who says he's a doctor, and who he has a view of the Phenyle swamp from his front verandah, has really taken the biscuit this time. The other Sunday he was heard to say that it was fine and warm with hardly any breeze while not 500 yards distant it was 60 degrees minus with seven-eighths cloud and blowing a gale. Now we know he has remote control of his head!

Some gentlemen, the other day was heard by his XVI, while putting out the milk bottles. But here he's paying, his well modulated voice came from the speaker of a broadcast transistor portable held in the hand of a grinning, effulgent youth promenading nearby. Enter Shmoo and dancing.

And while on the cells beginning with Z, the v.h.f. boys are beginning a worthy enterprise in the form of activity mornings or evening sessions. These sessions, on a regular basis, at the moment of these were 2AYV, Stewart, with Neil 2ZCU, Stan 2AYL, Merv 2AAM, Ron 2ZIF, Fred 2ZAF, and Ian 2ZJG. If you absent Z boys want some details of how you can get in on all this, contact any of those mentioned above and they will help you all they can. After all, that's what it's all for, helping and the exchange of ideas.

One day soon, Norm 2ZNF looks like joining the happy throng as any after tell me he is almost ready to fire. And as for mobile

operation, Bill 2XT has forsaken his thunderbird and is progressing with some 144 gear in the XT Chevy. Any resemblance between this vehicle and a tram is purely coincidental. I suppose that Bill is preparing for Blackalls and if any of you other chaps are preparing also, remember that it is on the Saturday the Six-Hour Day week-end and that we expect to see you at the Annual Dinner. This should be a most enjoyable affair and we are changing the venue to the Esplanade Hotel. I am not able to say who the speaker will be, but you will be notified in the Bulletin as the time draws near. As for the field day, follow all cars carrying weird beams and things and let's have a good roll-up. After all, it is a great satisfaction to the organizers when many members come along to watch a worthwhile activity as the field day.

Another member who has had a field day lately is Lionel 2CS. From work on top of Donald Duck he was called to an emergency the other day when one of his junior admirers asked him to help with some 2I Mc activity, so we'll radio control of a model. Lionel now knows a great deal more about this form of Amateur Radio than he did before. And, as the new rig you know, he has a new model which he whistles from the end of the billiard table, and it responds. I'm beginning to think that Bob 2AQH does the same thing with the balls themselves, the way he defeated me the other night.

Bob, by the way, has been seen lately carrying an ATX under his arm and perhaps this is the forerunner of more activity on the h.f. bands. Louder signal from Westy please! I know what it is.

Whispering and LV station is established on the top of Sugarloaf, those in the shadow will worry not about v.h.f. Then we'll hear some modulation. Another man with modulation a plenty is Jim 2AST. What this man does to my speaker cone is nobody's business. I must arrange some form of early warning. I've not worked with Harley 2SF recently, but I think he now has a room in the house where it's warm. This may help to promote a healthier signal and a more frequent one. How about it, Varley?

And I should talk. However long it is since a signal was heard from Belton is anybody's guess. That Mullen man came and cut down all the trees and look at the mess.

It is reported that our hard working Morse practice man from Kotara, Fred 2AGE, had a strange experience. A junior acquaintance of his sat in front of the L.V. set and, seeing no picture, asked why it was that Mr. Eade got green worms on his L.V. and they got none. This seems to suggest that the L.V. set is c.r.o. somewhere about. Of course I cannot vouch for the authenticity of this story.

Another member from the same vicinity, one Raspberry Jam and his Juliet have returned safely from a journey to far away VK4, in robust health and sporting a well filled log book. You were putting in a f.b. signal LK. Someone else who is getting a f.b. signal now is Belmont Bob. He decided to put an aerial on his 1155. It goes much better now thank you. He's thrown the string away but he does have a problem. How to get a half wave on 30 in 106 feet? I do know one active member who reckons that a folded dipole would do the trick. After all, it is only half as long as a dipole—or is it? Was his face red?

And speaking of red faces, reminds me of the colour Stewart displayed before his eyes when the man from the contractor told him how much it would be to run wires to his new shack. Another 8 db. would have bought him a new Underwood. Underwood is a pro growing though at a great speed and power or no power, it should be finished soon.

Ron 2ASJ has been doing well lately and is putting in a mighty signal on 40. I think it must be a good place for Amateur Radio from the sands of Stockton, but not so good for L.V. says Jack and that is why you'll not hear these arrivals after 500.

Activity from Cessnock on 288 may be forthcoming shortly according to what Chris JPZ and Peter 2AYV have said. There is talk of running a test with a radio amateur. I noticed the other day that the big must at Chris' was replete with a new coat of aluminium polish, so things are looking good anyway. Harry 2AF is putting in a mighty signal from Terribla and it's real f.b. to hear him on regularly. I think Harry is another oppressed Amateur who waits for the week for the local L.V. to begin. I do hope that when the joyous day arrives many of us will have less worries than at the present.

By the way, if you have any voices, come to the meeting on Friday week, that's the 11th, and if they are anything to do with n.a.b. then there will be somebody there to help you along. That man will be Leo 2AC.

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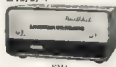
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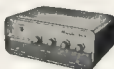
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by Amateurs in general, although some of us have the same outlook, and want to know what we personally will gain, with never a thought to the old proverb "It is better to give than receive."

Now it was the time to ask for expansion of frequencies and an allotment for "Citizen Band Operation." The radio would help to popularise amateur radio, and our ranks would very soon grow. Presumably if our friends on the Pacific can have these, we could also emulate them and bring pressure to bear on the "vars" and "progies" and "step" with the march of time. I for one, and I know there are many, many others, hope that these requests will be made and granted. Quite a few contacts in the market each day on 7, 14, 21 Mc. If one has the patience to just wait for the respective bands to open for short periods, it will pay quite a long time yet before the bands are wide open and one could pick up any band and work around the globe.

Things locally are in the doldrums, very few being heard. But must be engaged in other pursuits, no local ragchews being heard. Chas. 3BXQ was in and out on a business trip and did not have time to do any local netting, but promises to put the s.b.h. rig in the port for next trip and do the honors and visit the various shores. As for EWV, the caller who could not resist the tourist delight "Bunny North Queensland" and was called on the scenic and scenic and scenic.

Bill 3AZL, together with Phyl, a better looking half, arrived by boat, spent the night and day looking all over the local beauty spots and surroundings. I was surprised to find the fact that the mangrove trees were only in blossom. Flew through to Cairns to see the tropical north and out to the beautiful Tablelands before returning home by boat to the drab cold Sydney in winter time (h).

Bob 4MF reports that the classes on Morse at the school are going well. I am glad there are no trouble when they face the sound barrier. T3, 4RW.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The monthly general meeting of the VKS Division was held in the clubrooms to a small attendance. I was present and gave a very little of that and took the form of a buy and sell night. These nights seem to go in cycles, one month there is only a normal amount of business and another month when everybody decides to give the shack a clean out, and the clubrooms are not big enough to hold the extra material. I met a mis-appearing youth, and this particular night was no exception. I have never seen so much material available before and although an alarm number of sales were made, I was surprised a few members were forced to take home their contribution to the night. This is a bit lack, although unavoidable, and everybody regrets it more than Council, but nobody takes it in good part, or else they are remarkably good actors.

Now there is not much that can be written about these nights, which follow a set pattern, and a description of one fits all the rest. Of course, I could say that the auctioneer was muscular, physically well-proportioned, debonair, a master of repartee, silvery-tongued, dressed in the latest fashioned hessian suit, and that he was a very good auctioneer. I was the auctioneer. There would be some nasty-minded people who would hint that I was being mean and course such an insinuation would make me more determined to be modest and retiring nature. However, I can say that apparently Council reads the VKS notices, and that the auctioneer, who is Bill 3BXQ, representing Council, referred to my grizzle of a couple of months ago in which I complained that they had purposely denied me the opportunity of being a successful bidder. I was presented to the meeting by Ron 5ZDC during my vacation. At the conclusion of his explanation, he was asked to stand up and one side, and said that Council hoped that I would forgive them all and have a little slide evening to myself.

Extra things in this generous gesture (although looking one eye open for the nigger in the woodpile), I proceeded to have my little prize, which was accompanied by the members' personal interjection, who he said that think that because my hair stood up on end as I viewed, the slide must be of a vague nature, but that he would be happy to make and if I can slip it in the notes without the Editor waking up, I will let you know just what I saw.

Well, under a short story longer, the bidding got under way, most of the gear was disposed of, and everybody left apparently

having thoroughly enjoyed the fare offered, and retired for their couches at virtue at the morning hours.

Speaking personally, I feel that since we have been in our new clubrooms the buy and sell night do not flow quite as smoothly as it used to. In the past, I suggested to Council, with all humility, that (1) the gear be stored in the kitchen out of sight, (2) that the slides be sold in the afternoon, it is handed in, in other words first in first sold; (3) that the auctioneer operate from the front of the kitchen and not from the stage, not just but not from the stage, and (4) he built around the auctioneer to protect his life and limb, in view of the mad rush which took place when the Morse keys were offered for one shilling.

I was intrigued to watch the expression on the face of the Sultan of S.A.B., Comp 3EF, when he saw the slides and he realised the threat to his dominion. Nevertheless, he nearly succumbed to the temptation himself and half rose from his seat several times, only to finally sit tight, possibly because he realised just what an uproar would take place, with the auctioneer well in the van!

By way of beginning to think that I am a success at last. A certain v.h.f. member, who for obvious reasons shall remain nameless, has never been entirely enthusiastic in his attitude towards me, and I suspect he has taken too seriously my occasional jibe at his beloved v.h.f., thawed considerably as he has been in the market for a while. At the meeting, I said that not only was I old, but also that there was some doubt about my parentage. Well, well, well, you never know where my cup of happiness is for overflowing.

Heard Bill 3BXQ in contact with Lance 3XL on 7, the slide was sold for \$1.00. I was with Bill with his new translator converter that he finished talking Lance in to giving it a go, mainly because, to put it in the words of the old saying, "I don't know what a translator converter, it's a beast, if it would only go!"

Berry 3BQ was also heard the other Sunday morning exchanging pleasantries with Dave 3AW who was mobile and a good signal too, somewhere in or near VK3. The navigator for Dave was someone named A, and I saw untrained ears it sounded like 5ZCR, and from the general hilarity in the mobile unit, I feel that Dave had had a good time. I saw Herb 3NN from his QTH. Al would have blotted his navigating copy book more than once!

Much flurry, skurry and bustle, to say nothing of harsh language on the part of Doc 3MD, who is the chairman of the committee, when he discovered that the minute book was missing after the general meeting. Almost in Council's discussion, I was asked to read off the said book, an accusation brazenly repeated by Tom 3TL on the W.L.A. call-back last Sunday, and for a few moments it looked like my being a permanent guest at Doc's boarding house. Anyway, after an extensive investigation, Ian 3QX broke down and tearfully admitted on the W.L.A. call-back that he had picked it up by mistake and taken it home, and Council and I are re-united. Doc suggests, after reading the probationer's report that I had been a good member, and I am glad that he writes up the minutes before returning the book. Just as well they did not make a probationer's report, as I would not have been in chains. Anyway, we could have used Doc's receiver, or could I?

What's that? What did I see on the slide? Just a sec., while I take a peep at Ye Ed. Nothing doing. I was told to be quick. Stick around, he won't last much longer.

Hughie 3BC has been dabbling in a little bit of the slide, and I was surprised to hear, and I understand that he had his slide boy in the Adelaide Hospital recently but all is now well. Tom 3TL has been giving some of the slides to the detectorists, and has come up with some statistics on the matter, including the fact that a half a volt was enough to get it. Careful, Tom, keep your perchance handy!

A welcome visitor to the general meeting was Tony 3ZAL, all the way from Bordertown. I don't usually mention the Z boys for fear of the terms of reference, but he is independent, but as Tony was introduced to me by Barry 3BQ, who is the said correspondent, I feel I must mention him. He is very keen on Amateur Radio and put himself in my good books immediately by telling me that he liked the VKS notes. In support of this, he said that he would like me as a person of very keen discernment!

Reg. 3RH heard calling portland in VK3 several times, and was good to hear it all times. Have heard no information as to his complete coverage on what was apparently

his vacation, but hope that he came through unscathed from what I always think as hostile territory.

Tom 3TL writes from Renmark to say that the last couple of Sundays have not helped the 5W1 broadcasts, in fact the VK3 signals have been worse than the detuning of the broadcast. No mention of any one call, much to my disappointment, as I was hoping that Max 3ARZ would be one of the culprits. I don't know so get convinced that the use of VK3s. Dud 3DQ is quite active on 3.5 Mc. these days, and I also heard Bob 3OD on the band where there was no detuning at all to this band these days, although the dangers of neighbourly interference tends to keep a number of the gang from pushing their luck.

What did I see on the slide? Shush, shush, he has still got one eye open. Stick around, Peter 3FT has been heard quite frequently, although I believe that he is only using his mobile gear pending his settling down in his new QTH. Ray 3SF also heard with his mobile gear with an extra good signal, in fact so good was the signal when heard here that I was quite surprised to find out that he was working on 7 Mc. and when heard was in the middle of a fish story that brought down the house, a brick at a time! Steve 3ZB was heard on 7, and I was surprised to find that his mobile set-up, and the signal had to be heard to be believed. Heard him in contact with a young man, who was a very good signal, and that he received must have been music into his ears.

Reg. 3DO, at the time of writing, is re-organising himself, and seems to be presumably renewing acquaintance with his usual Sunday morning mate, Bas 3ABJ. I hope that Max 3ARZ has been given a stern talking to. I have a copyright on all his comments; have I not? Xer? Vern (by now a Z call, congratulations OM!) is better known to me than to most of the VKS members, and I am sure that he has been the father-in-law of Brian 3ZBL. This "Admiral" business had me intrigued, so putting on my Sherlock Holmes outfit, I tried to find out what it was all about. Vern is the proud possessor of a six foot (or thereabouts) dinghy and when cruising on the beach, he makes a superbly neat clean, silver shoes, white trousers, reefer jacket and peaked cap complete with suitable emblem. Heed, say more!

Keith 3KH 5W1, take your pick! is at the moment holidaying at Clare and the Sunday morning session is being handled by John 3JH, who has been a very good signal at the moment a well kept secret, but never fear, I will find out, despite the efforts of Council to stop me. Incidentally, talking about Keith, I have been a very good signal, and he has been appointed by Council to look into the pros and cons, the pitfalls and pre-conditions of the slide, and to give his experiences of other Divisions on the subject of VKS owning their own clubrooms. This matter is by no means a new one as I can remember Joe 3TF being very good on it for fifteen years ago, but the main obstacle of course was the financial angle. Joe never had any money, and I am sure that Keith, neither did he. Of course to peasants like myself, ten bob is a matter of finance, but to financial tycoons like Keith and Joe, ten bob is like a million dollars. I don't deny it you jokers. Anyway we have nothing to lose and everything to gain from the slide, and I am sure that Keith will let OM, and you can count on my empty bottles and rags and bones, particularly my rags. What's that? Oh yes, just a sec. No, it is still good. I am sure that Keith will let OM, but then he always has that look. He patient, the secret of the slide will soon be disclosed.

I knew it, I knew it, advice has just reached me by carrier pigeon (a pretty big carrier pigeon) that Frank 3MZ has done it again. This time he has made a very good signal and built a couple of ribs and is living the life of luxury on "compo". I don't know what to do with him, we will have to put him in a little cage and only let him out for feeding, or for other little jobs he might like to do. Carl 3SS could then call him up and tell him that he has done a very good signal. "Only a bird in a gilded cage!"

Sec 3BZ, if rumour can be believed, travelled at last to Canberra, and is now on his way to the G.C. I don't know if he is going to stay. Apparently Sec has enough gold hidden in his backyard without travelling all that way to the slide, and I am sure that he will not exactly find any gold up there. May I add, "all is not gold that glitters." Have not heard any news of Buck 3DA and can only assume that he has been a very good signal, or doing all right. Could anybody oblige? Doug

ADW, a keen 7 Mc. habitue of many moons, seems to have lost interest in the hobby of late. He tells me that he is not very active these days and feels no pangs of remorse. However, he is not the first to tell me that and definitely won't be the last. Wait and see, Doug.

Max GGF can be heard most nights mobile on 7 Mc. on his way home from toll, and judging from the number of VKIs heard calling him, he must be putting an extra good signal over the top. I have seen him on the back of a red's (S/E) face when the mad rush was on at the bay and sell night for the Morse keys. He was tickled pink and could not have been happier if I had been taking allotments for occupation on his beloved 7 Mc.

Paid a flying visit to Lloyd 50K the other night. As a matter of fact I have bitten the worm and used those "polymeric" hypodermis, ipodermis, well anyway, those "poly" thingamabobs that have such universal and many uses in our hobby, and when I was there, he gave me a practical demonstration of how much "juice" he could pick out of the sky from the A.B.C. station, SAN. This station is a million times better than the QTH and he tells me that he is quite upset that both 5CL and SAN are moving away in the near future. 5CL goes to 50Kw, and SAN goes to the increase, as what I mean? By the way, Lloyd, my XYL sat on the paper parcel in the back seat of the car and called me "naughty" when I got the point? She did! Keweenaw girlish ripple.

George 8HX, our genial QSL officer and tame certificate hunter, managed to snare plenty of publicity for the 21st birthday this month, photo and all. Nice work OM, but how long since have you had a Byer tape recorder in your equipment? Gordon 3V said he was on the increase, as what I mean? He is that he is very busy at the University these days, as a student and not as a chalk wiper. Have you had a student yet, OM? I have seen a few months ago made passing reference in these notes to the Adelaide University Amateur Radio Club, and also to the fact that they had a hamster named "Splatter." The following, which I quote as a matter of interest and also as an excellent example of the Editor's sense of humour:

Mr. Parsons ("Pansy" to us) has seen fit to favour us with 17 lines of illustrious prose in that celebrated daughter magazine of ours "Amateur Radio". As a matter of academic interest, it was decided at a meeting of the Radio Club sub-committee for the advancement of technical knowledge at the Very High Frequencies that they use 21 boys to invite "Pansy" to ride his bicycle through the grounds once again (if it will stand the strain), and make himself known to us. We are noted for our hospitality and the bones of the last Radio Inspector to visit us are on display at the bottom of the lift well."

That is all for the generous invitation, but feel that I must refuse the obvious rise in social status of sharing the lift well with the present tenant!

He is a slip now, so here goes, and don't forget you asked what was on the slide - I distinctly heard you. It's on your own head.

There was a young man with a hernia Who said to his doctor "Goldernie" When fixing my middle—don't you dare add a hernia!

With matters that do not concern."—

—APS (Pansy to you).

STOP PRESS

[What Divisional scribe did not know that a tribe member had a broken rib? My, the intelligence service is not up to standard!—Ed. and still waits.]

ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Elizabeth Amateur Radio Club (VK2ELZ) will be 40 and 40 metres during the Elizabeth Sixth Birthday Celebration on November 18, together with a number of other Elizabeth stations. We would appreciate some contacts that date.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

News is very scarce this month due to several causes, the main ones being end of financial year activity, farming test conditions, and only 80 very poor conditions for this time of the year.

The monthly meeting at the Perth Tech, was very attractive, the main attraction being an outstanding lecture and film on the evolution of time pieces and space travel, leading up to the latest in wrist watches, powered by a mercury cell, quartz a transistor and tuning fork. Many envious looks were given the one which was passed around for inspection. The lecture was given at the start of the meeting to enable some of the students from Tech to attend. After the lecture the normal meeting was held and quite a number of unfamiliar faces were to be seen. One visitor, who is becoming quite a regular attender was 6XKO, even though his QTH is over 140 miles from Perth.

There has been some activity on the higher bands, but it is very spasmoid. Skipper 6WS has had contacts and Bob 6RG is heard occasionally in contact with some stations. 40 mc band had some activity, 41, during the day light hours, from the shift workers and gentlemen of leisure. Henry 6DC, Bob 6RG and Horrie 6GD are heard occasionally on these.

Clem 6CW's voice is beginning to filter through the empty paint line and layers of paint. It is much stronger since you hit the window put in Clem. Ian 6CL is not heard here very often lately, I suppose he is tidying up for the day papers. You never hear him do the job, Ian. Les 6WL is still trying to quieten his t.v. gremlins, but they keep on bobbing up. Hope you soon get them tamed Les, we miss the m. on 80 mc. 8RY is a call which is not heard often enough on 40 mc and 80 mc. Should hear more of you Roy, but your c.w. sessions to 8 mc are appreciated. Bob 6EZ manages to have some contacts through his network of power lines. They are certainly up against you Harry. 6RX is heard occasionally on 40 mc and you are making many DX friends. Bill, with the time these notes appear. 6ZCK per 6LS.

Members will be interested to know that our "W.A. Bulletin" has now been registered with the Post Office and can be ordered at bulk rates. Any items of interest, articles, Chioe items, etc., should be forwarded to 6LS. We note 6ZCB has been confined to bed and trust that Len is on the mend. In these notes appear. 6ZCK per 6LS.

TASMANIA

Remember the R.D. Contest, the second week-end in August. Take part, and submit your log before the end of August so that your efforts will help the Division to retain the trophy. We challenge the other Divisions to give us a good fight, we will sweep a number with anyone entitled to participate, so go to it.

On the night of 14th June, five Hobart stations entertained members from the Short Wave Listeners' Group by entering into a lengthy QSO on the 80 mc band. The Division and the stations taking part to know that their efforts were appreciated.

Len 6H is still his QTH from just below Channel 7 to Channel 10, where he has temporary accommodation pending the construction of his new home in that locality. Len is hoping to have the station of the aforesaid t.v. transmitter will not now appear across the 8 mc band.

At the July meeting of the Division, we were given a lecture by Bill 6N on the history and nature of air navigational and radio aids. We can only be proud of Australia's contribution to the advances in both fields over the years from both government and private sources. The wonderful record of air safety in our land is adequate testimony to the excellence of our navigational aids.

Ken 7KA is delighted that a volunteer has offered his services as assistant secretary, and we welcome our Associate member, Eric Granger, into the team.

Night time conditions for the past month have been generally poor, except for the 80 mc band, and even that band was subject to severe static for about ten days. So it can be said that activity within the Division has been very slight.

As Federal Councillor, I seek your assistance in one matter. It is now time to forward items for inclusion on the agenda for the next Federal Convention. If you have any suggestions for consideration by the Division, forward full particulars either to me as Federal Councillor or to the Divisional Secretary. This matter is of great importance, please give it the consideration it deserves. 7X FZZ.

NORTH-WESTERN ZONE

The year is fast slipping by with the Remembrance Day Contest hard upon us once more. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy luck in the ensuing battle, but may Tasmania once again be successful.

Not a great deal of interest has taken place during past month, not even much DX as I believe 6X has been out of the zone.

The July meeting was held as usual, it being a social one, and I was not a little disappointed that more did not attend to avail themselves of the excellent information given out by Ken 7AI in part one of his lecture on s.a.b. Ken has gone to a lot of trouble in preparation of this lecture. I wonder whether he will be out of this Zone to go onto s.a.b.? Seems to have a lot in its favour—perhaps it doesn't sound so much like a wagon load of trouble on a monkeys on a prairie, ix. Anyway, hope it won't be too long before Ken can get round to finishing the lecture.

At the last meeting supper constituted a minor affair as there was a colossal accumulation of "junk" (and some of it was just that) to be disposed of and the auction took quite a considerable time, the night having given up to morning. We did not close up, so sincerely hope Zone funds were amply added to. This month also gives us our Zone Annual Meeting. I wonder who the new office-bearers will be.

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SELL: BC453 Q5er, £3/10/-, also quantity of crystals, 7 and 3.5 Mc. (mainly FT243) at 10/- each, and around 6900 kc. five for £1. Roth Jones, 131 Queen Street, Melbourne, Vic.

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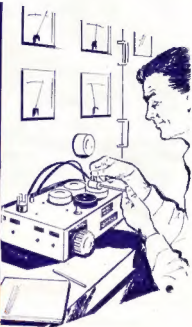
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